

## Local Flora Notes

### JASIONE AND CROTON

*Jasione montana* L. Many recent reports, collections by both amateurs and professional botanists, and my observations of this campanulaceous weed indicate that it is firmly established in our local area. Of the regions outside the Torrey range there are two representatives in the Britton Herbarium of the N. Y. Bot. Gd. from Conanicut Island, R. I.: J. F. Collins (1895) and ex herb. W. M. Canby (1899). The former collector, in an article in the Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 23: 212, 213 (1896), records that the Sheep's-bit had been observed for at least five years, and that it covered several acres. The author adds these New England stations: Reading, Mass. (only a few plants, fide W. H. Manning), and a doubtful station at Boston Back Bay Fens. Scorgie, in Rhodora 4: 199 (1902), reports a single plant at Wareham, Mass. "The Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Connecticut" by L. Andrews and others (1910), reports it in Plainfield (a few plants) and in East Lyme. Two New York City records are dated 1879; Eighth Avenue and Harlem River, Manhattan; Hunter's Point, L. I. Both ballast collections are by Addison Brown, who reported them in the Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 6: 357 (1879). These two records, like that from Girard Point, Philadelphia (collected on ballast by Isaac Burk, probably about the 60's), are historical; within the city limits I saw last year a few stray specimens of *Jasione* in the Springfield Gardens section of Queens. It grows more abundantly a short distance east, at Valley Stream. The material from Long Island at the N. Y. Bot. Gd. is all from Suffolk Co.: Laurel, June, 1925, Ferguson #3912; Oakdale, July, 1933, M. M. Kennerly, Shinnecock Hills, June, 1938, Moldenke #10625; Hampton Bays, August, 1938, Muenscher & Curtis #6511; Southampton, September, 1938, Monachino. But my Long Island observations of this adventive have been in all its counties, appearing either as waifs or, not infrequently, in large conspicuous colonies of exclusive and vigorous growth.

The Sheep's-bit is no less ambitious in New Jersey. Bayard Long, in Rhodora 21: 105-108 (1919), "*Jasione montana* a conspicuous weed near Lakewood, N. J.," reports "at least a dozen distinct stations . . . some of thousands of plants, some of few" near

Lakewood. He adds that it has thoroughly adapted itself in some places and has the appearance of a native plant; farmers thereabouts, he comments, told him that the "Blue Weed" had been frequent at Lakewood for twenty-five years and was elsewhere in Monmouth County. The Lakewood station is substantiated in the herbarium of the N. Y. Bot. Gd. by Baldwin (July, 1918) and E. G. Barnhart (June, 1921). Monachino #341 (August, 1937) was collected at Lakehurst, Ocean County, where in conspicuousness it perhaps superseded that described by Bayard Long some twenty years ago; and in no less profusion, I have also observed several stations of *Jasione montana* in Burlington County.

*Croton glandulosus* L. The stations in the vicinity of Philadelphia for this Euphorbiaceous species have been long known. A. M. Ferguson, in "Crotons of the United States" (1901), page 52, writes, "A form, reported as common below the Navy Yard, Philadelphia (Diffenbough, 1864; Martindale, 1865; and Parker, 1866, 1867, on ballast ground), is *C. glandulosus scordioides* (Lam.) Muell. Arg." In 1921, Bayard Long, *Rhodora* 23: 221, 223, refers to these old stations and includes the collections from Newcastle, Del. (1866, a single plant only), and that from Kaighn's Point, Camden, N. J. (1865, 1866). He continues, "The last collection appears to have been in 1879, from ballast grounds in Philadelphia." Bayard Long proceeds to report his observations near Atco, Camden County, N. J., where he saw many hundreds of vigorous plants of the Glandular Croton. On September, 1937, I collected my #381 (deposited in the Local Herb. N. Y. B. G.) near Barnegat, Ocean County, N. J., where it was flourishing in a huge colony of ripe-seeded *C. glandulosus var. septentrionalis* Muell. Arg. form of the species.

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